

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A positioning system for an applicator, comprising:
a diagnosing implement to diagnose of a living body including an affected part;
a mark body provided on said diagnosing implement;
an applicator;
an energy emitter provided in said applicator and emitting energy to the living body;
at least one sensor provided on said applicator for outputting a signal corresponding to a distance between the sensor and said mark body; and
an indicator which ~~indicate~~ indicates a preferable position of said applicator based on the output of said sensor while said mark body is disposed in the proximity of the affected part through a diagnosis performed using said diagnosing implement.
2. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said sensor is an elastic wave sensor or a magnetic sensor, and said positioning system comprises a single or a plurality of such sensors.
3. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 2, wherein said elastic wave sensor is an ultrasonic sensor and serves also as an ultrasonic wave oscillator, and said mark body is an ultrasonic wave reflecting body having an acoustic impedance different from that of the living body.
4. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 2, wherein said applicator is formed in a cylindrical shape, and said elastic wave sensor is provided on an outer peripheral face of the cylinder of said applicator such that, even if said applicator rotates around an axis thereof, said elastic wave sensor can

receive an ultrasonic wave from a plurality of directions.

5. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said indicator includes a processor which discriminates the optimum position of said applicator based on the output of said sensor.

6. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 5, wherein said positioning system comprises a single sensor, and said processor discriminates a position at which said sensor is positioned nearest to said mark body as the optimum position of said applicator.

7. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said positioning system comprises two sensors provided on a straight line parallel to an insertion direction of said applicator, and said indicator indicates a position at which the distances between said sensors and said mark body are equal to each other as the optimum position of said applicator.

8. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said indicator indicates the optimum position of said applicator by at least one of an image and sound.

9. (Currently Amended) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 5, wherein said processor stores the distance between said sensor and said mark body when it is discriminated that said applicator is at the optimum position and discriminates a positional displacement when ~~the~~ an error of the distance to said mark body detected by said sensor during the diagnosis from the stored distance becomes equal to or higher than a predetermined value, and said indicator indicates, when said processor discriminates a positional displacement, a warning of the positional displacement by at least one of an image and sound.

10. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said energy emitter emits energy of an electromagnetic wave, an acoustic wave or electric current to the living body.

11. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said mark body allows sterilization to be incorporated into and introduced together with said diagnosing implement into the living body.

12. (Currently Amended) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 1, wherein said applicator has an insertion portion, which is formed to insert into the urethra and treats the prostatic hypertrophy and said energy emitter is provided in said insertion portion, and said diagnosing implement is a glove for being used to palpate the affected part from the rectum while said mark body is disposed in the proximity of the affected part through the palpation.

13. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator according to claim 12, wherein said mark body is formed in a shape and a size which do not have an influence on the palpation performed using said glove.

14. (Original) A positioning system for an applicator, comprising:
an applicator;
an energy emitter provided in said applicator and emitting energy to a living body;
a mark body provided on said applicator;
a diagnosing implement to diagnose of a living body including an affected part;
a sensor provided on said diagnosing implement and capable of detecting a distance between the sensor and said mark body; and
an indicator which indicates a preferable position of said applicator based on an output of said sensor while said sensor is disposed in the proximity of the affected part through the diagnosis performed using said diagnosing implement.

15. (Currently Amended) A positioning method for an applicator, comprising the steps of:
diagnosing a living body including an affected part with a diagnosing implement which has a mark body, specifying the position of the affected part and disposing the mark body in the proximity of the affected part;

inserting an applicator having a sensor capable of detecting the distance between the sensor and said mark body into the living body; and

positioning said applicator in response to information indicated corresponding to an output of said sensor,

wherein said mark body is sterilized and incorporated into and introduced together with said diagnosing implement into the living body.

16. (Original) A positioning method for an applicator according to claim 15, wherein the indication of the information is a notification which depends upon high/low and/or strong/weak of sound corresponding to the distance between said mark body and said sensor.

17. (Original) A positioning method for an applicator according to claim 15, wherein the information is information discriminated by a processor based on the output of said sensor.

18. (Currently Amended) A positioning method for an applicator according to claim 17, wherein said processor stores the distance between said sensor and said mark body when it is discriminated that said applicator is at the optimum position and discriminates a positional displacement when the an error of the distance to said mark body detected by said sensor from the stored distance becomes equal to or higher than a predetermined value, and presents a warning of the positional displacement by at least one of an image and sound.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A positioning method for an applicator according to claim 15, wherein said diagnosing implement is a glove for being used to palpate the affected part from the rectum, and said mark body is provided at a fingertip of said glove and disposed in the proximity of the affected part through the palpation.

21. (Original) A positioning method for an applicator according to claim 15, wherein said applicator is inserted from the urethra and positioned at the prostate.

22. (Original) A positioning method for an applicator, comprising the steps of:
diagnosing a living body including an affected part with a diagnosing implement which has a sensor specifying the position of the affected part and disposing the sensor in the proximity of the affected part;
inserting an applicator having a mark body into a living body;
detecting the distance between of said sensor and the mark body; and
positioning said applicator in response to information detected by said sensor.